

REMARKS

With this Amendment, claims 1-3, 8-10, 15-19, and 24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 4-7, 11-14, and 20-23 are all the claims currently pending in this application.

Claim Amendments and Cancellations

With this Amendment, each of claims 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, and 20 have been rewritten into independent form including the limitations of the claims from which they previously depended.

Claim 20 is amended to recite a *computer-readable storage medium*, and claims 21-23 which depend therefrom are also amended accordingly.

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 15-19, and 24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that claims 4-7, 11-14, and 20-23 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form, and amended to address the §101 rejection.

With this Amendment, claims 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, and 20 are rewritten into independent form, and claims 20-23 are amended to address the §101 rejection. Claims 6 and 13 depend from claims 4 and 11, respectively.

Allowance of claims 4-7, 11-14, and 20-23 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 17-19 and 24 are canceled. Claims 20-23 are amended to recite a computer-readable storage medium, as requested by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 15-19, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Wada (U.S. Publication 2003/0007098) in view of Ohsawa (EP 1 058 158). These claims are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/582,542

Attorney Docket No.: Q95376

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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